

Letter from the Director



It's hard to believe that it's been only a year since we celebrated the inauguration of the Institute for the History of Texas Music at Southwest Texas State University. With the hard work and generous support of so many people, we've accomplished far more than we ever imagined we could in such a short time.

Our graduate and undergraduate courses on the history of Texas music have proven so popular, that we've expanded the undergraduate class size for Fall 2001. We're busy working with the Texas State Historical Association and the Texas Music Office to publish the *Handbook of Texas Music*, the definitive encyclopedia of Texas music history. Our students will have contributed nearly 200 articles to the *Handbook* by the time it's finished in 2002. Working with the Texas Music Office, we also completed an extensive online bibliography of books, articles, and other publications relating to the history of Texas music. One of our upcoming projects this summer is to build an electronic database of Texas music archival collections from across the state.

We're very proud to have recently released our first compilation CD, entitled *Travelin' Texas*, which includes eighteen songs from such widely diverse Texas artists as Asleep at the Wheel, Tish Hinojosa, Marcia Ball, Joe Ely, Shake Russell, Step Rideau & the Zydeco Outlaws, Aztex, Slaid Cleaves, W. C. Clark, and others. Sales of the CD have helped fund our ongoing educational projects. We are very grateful to all the musicians who gave so generously of their time and talent.

We're also excited about our new "Texas Music History Unplugged" lecture series, which will bring prominent Texas musicians to campus to perform and discuss how Texas music reflects the rich history and tremendous cultural diversity of the Southwest. On March 20, 2001, this event featured celebrated Texas singer/songwriter Tish Hinojosa, multiple Grammy Award win-

ner Ray Benson, rising star Terri Hendrix, acclaimed musician/producer Lloyd Maines, and accordion virtuoso Joel Guzmán.

This year, the Institute added two important new collections to the university's Texas Music Archives: The Texas Heritage Music Foundation archives and the Guadalupe San Miguel, Jr. archives. These new collections are an important part of our effort to work with other organizations, such as the Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin, the Texas Music Museum in Austin, and the University of Texas at San Antonio Institute of Texan Cultures, to preserve and study the musical heritage of the Southwest.

We've also been very active in community outreach programs, through which we've given presentations at public schools, community centers, and conferences to demonstrate how Texas music reflects the history and culture of the Southwest. As a result of our efforts, the Institute has received attention from a variety of newspapers, magazines, journals, and radio and television stations, including *Billboard Magazine*, one of the music industry's most prestigious international publications.

The premier issue of *The Journal of Texas Music History* marks another milestone in our brief but very productive history. It will be the first academic journal to focus on the entire spectrum of Texas music history. We believe it will be an important addition to the existing scholarship on American music history, and, we hope, of great interest to everyone who loves Texas music and Texas history.

My sincerest thanks to Kitty Ledbetter, Gregg Andrews, Ann Marie Ellis, Gene Bourgeois, Gerald Hill, T. Cay Rowe, César Limón, Diana Harrell, Vikki Bynum, Mark Busby, Dickie Heaberlin, Richard Owen Baish, and everyone else who helped make this possible. We hope you enjoy *the Journal*, and we invite you to contact us for more information on the Institute and our programs.

Sincerely,

Gary Hartman, Ph.D.
Director, Institute for the History of Texas Music
Southwest Texas State University





The Journal of TEXAS MUSIC HISTORY

c o n t e n t s

Spring 2001

Spring 2001

Volume 1 Number 1

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The Journal of Texas Music History is published Fall and Spring by the Institute for the History of Texas Music at Southwest Texas State University. The contents of this journal do not necessarily represent the views of the University.

Subscription Annual subscription rates for the United States and North America are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for institutions. For outside of North America, please add \$5. Address subscription correspondence to Kathryn Ledbetter, Department of English, Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, TX 78666-4616.

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NEGRO SPIRITUALS

H. T. BURLEIGH

Published by
G. S. BROWN Co., Inc.
11 West 42nd Street
NEW YORK

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